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Selected News Release

Partnership Schools to Share Expertise at Collective In-Service Day

Approximately 500 K-8 teachers will participate in a series of workshops taking place from Veazie to Bucksport during a collaborative Regional In-service Day on Friday, March 15. The third annual event, pooling the resources and expertise of eight school districts and the University of Maine, is sponsored by the Penobscot River Educational Partnership: A Professional Development Network (PREP: PDN).

Fifty sessions will be offered during the day, presented by educators and practitioners in a variety of professions. Topics focusing on instruction, information, standards and assessment across the curriculum range from algorithms and writing to mythology and music. In addition, programs dealing with well being and safety are offered, such as service animals in the classroom, non-violent physical intervention and a workshop on asthma for school nurses. The sessions will also feature the latest software and strategies for integrating technology into instruction.

Three years ago, participating superintendents agreed on a calendar that would allow a common in-service day among schools in the Network. The goal of the collaborative event is to provide as much relevant professional development and immediately usable information as possible in single-day workshops and experiences, according to Network director Nancy Yoder. By working as a consortium, the school districts are able to offer teachers more options and be more cost-effective, she points out.

PREP: PDN partners include school districts in Brewer, Bucksport, Old Town, SAD 22 (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport), Union 87 (Orono, Veazie), Union 90 (Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford), Union 91 (Orland, Orrington), the Indian Island School and the University of Maine. Its mission is to increase the capacity of each partner to improve student learning by continually improving teaching and the educational experience.

PREP: PDN is a member of the Holmes Partnership, a national network of universities and their partner schools, working in collaboration with key national professional associations to create high-quality professional development and significant school renewal.

Media Note: The schedule of the Regional In-service Day workshops are available on the PREP: PDN website at <http://www.preppdn.org>, or from Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761, kay.hyatt@umit.maine.edu.

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